

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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CROPS

WINTER WHEAT condition on February 17 was reported as 4% excellent, 70% good, 24% fair and 2% poor. Wheat fields in the northern two-thirds of the State received a beneficial coat of snow for protection, but there is still concern as to how the extreme freezing and thawing and ponding in the southern areas could hurt wheat stands. Some leaf tip burning was reported in some areas. Generally, no significant damage has occurred to the winter wheat crop that can be determined thus far. Good weather conditions have allowed farmers to start applying nitrogen to the wheat crop.

SOIL MOISTURE on February 17 was reported as 58% short, 25% adequate and 17% surplus. The southern third of the State has received substantial rainfall amounts and has flooding problems. The West and Central Districts are reporting severe shortage of moisture causing farmers to haul water for household and livestock use.

LIVESTOCK condition across the State is mostly good to excellent. Variable weather conditions and temperatures continue to cause stress on livestock, but generally no significant problems were reported. Due to flooding, mud is causing problems with feedlot management in the southern third of the State. Current hay supplies are reported as 2% very short, 29% short, 63% adequate and 6% surplus. Good quality dairy hay is getting more difficult to find.

GRAIN movement is steady over the State. Lower prices and icy or muddy roads caused a slow down in grain transportation. Grain quality is rated as average, and aflatoxin is still a concern.

ILLINOIS DISTRICT SUMMARY

District	Winter Wheat Condition				Hay Supply				Soil Moisture Percent		
	Exc	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Short	Short	Adq	Surplus	Short	Adq	Surplus
Week ending February 17											
Northwest	--	30	70	--	10	40	50	--	100	--	--
Northeast	--	65	35	--	--	85	15	--	85	15	--
West	--	60	40	--	--	25	60	15	100	--	--
Central	10	45	45	--	--	20	80	--	100	--	--
East	--	50	50	--	--	30	70	--	50	50	--
W Southwest	--	75	25	--	--	15	70	15	55	45	--
E Southeast	5	65	30	--	--	20	80	--	30	65	5
Southwest	10	65	20	5	--	10	80	10	10	45	45
Southeast	--	100	--	--	--	25	75	--	--	--	100
State	4	70	24	2	2	29	63	6	58	25	17

PRELIMINARY DISTRICT PRECIPITATION AVGS. AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL IN INCHES

	NW	NE	W	C	E	WSW	ESE	SW	SE	STATE
January	0.91	0.64	0.85	1.36	1.24	1.73	2.13	2.49	2.92	1.58
Departure	-0.74	-1.16	-0.89	-0.48	-0.61	-0.19	-0.40	-0.49	-0.45	-0.60

JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

Illinois recorded very warm temperatures and near normal precipitation.

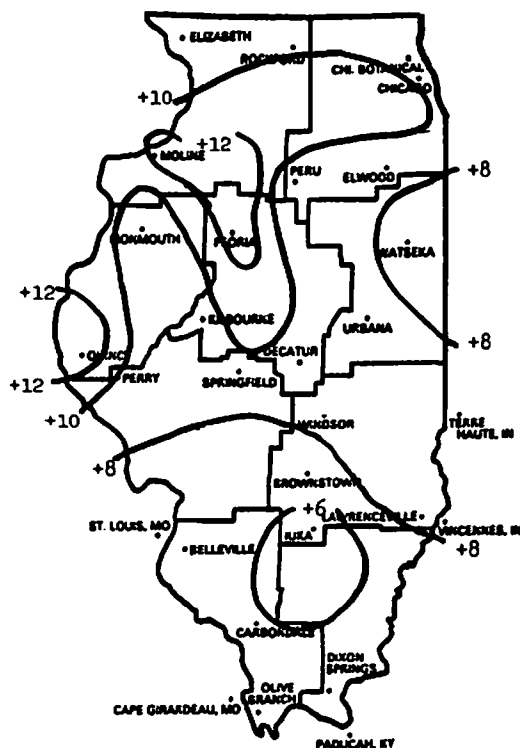
Illinois average monthly TEMPERATURE was 11.3 degrees above normal as temperatures ranged from 8 to 13 degrees above normal. This was one of the warmest January's on record. Springfield reported this to be the third warmest January on record and the warmest in the past 56 years. For Chicago, it was the seventh warmest. The warmest portion of the State was in the Northern two-thirds, while the coolest area was in the extreme South. The month started with near normal temperatures, but by the second week the readings were above normal. Maximum readings climbed into the upper 60's in the South during this period. However, the Northern portion recorded the coldest period of the year as minimum temperatures fell to the near zero degree mark. During the latter half of the month, a warm trend spread over the State. On the 31st of the month, maximum readings rose to their highest mark in the North (into the 70's). This set a record in many Northern areas.

PRECIPITATION averaged below normal in the State (-0.60 of an inch below normal). The Northern third of the State was again the driest. The largest below normal variation was in the Northeast District (-1.16 inches below normal). The least below normal variation was in the West-Southwest District (-0.19 of an inch below normal). There were several periods of precipitation during the month, with the heaviest falling during the first half. Several stations in the South, recorded more than 1 inch of precipitation during a 24-hour period. Paducah, Kentucky (which represents the Southeast District of Illinois) received the largest total amount for the month with 5.21 inches.

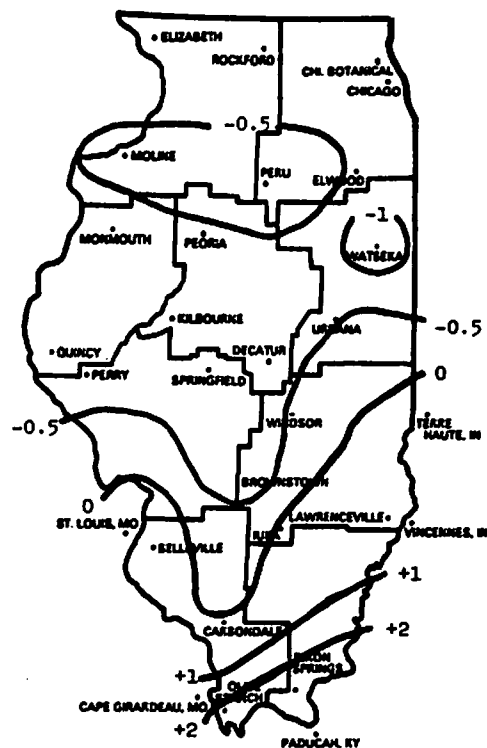
Snowfall during the month, was well below normal. Less than an inch fell in the State.

The OUTLOOK for the remainder of February is for temperatures near normal and precipitation to be above normal.

The 90-DAY OUTLOOK from February to April is for temperatures to be near normal and precipitation to be above normal.



TEMPERATURE DEVIATION FROM
AVERAGE (°F) JANUARY 1989

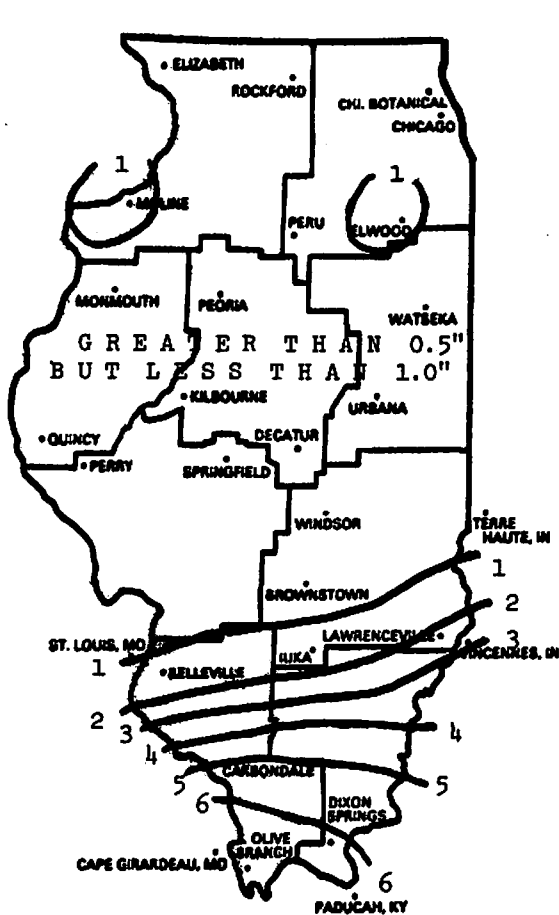


PRECIPITATION DEVIATION FROM
AVERAGE (INCHES) JANUARY 1989

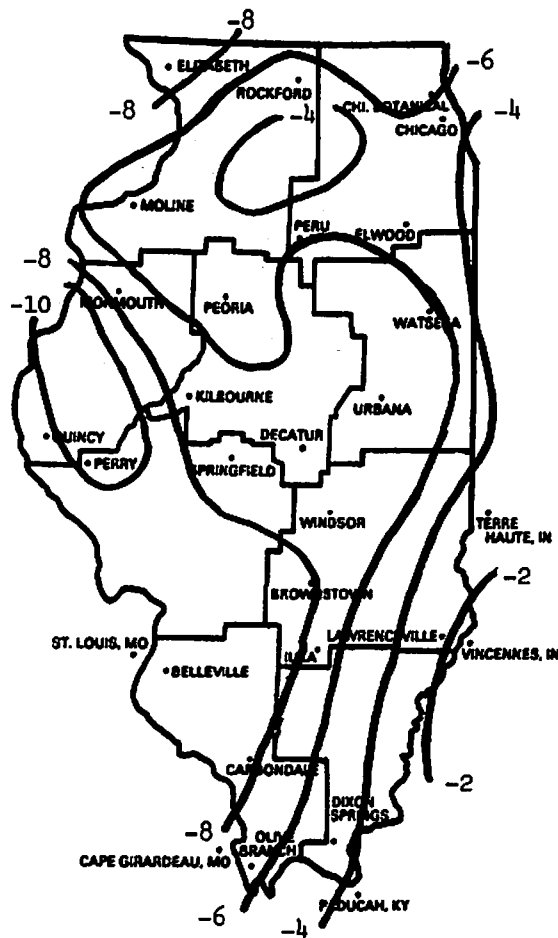
WEATHER SUMMARY, FEBRUARY 1-15, 1989

ILLINOIS DAILY HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR THE FIRST 15 DAYS OF FEBRUARY AVERAGED FROM THE MID 20'S NORTH TO THE MID TO UPPER 30'S SOUTH, WHICH WAS MOSTLY 3 TO 10 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL ACROSS THE STATE. LOW TEMPERATURES AVERAGED FROM THE SINGLE DIGITS AND LOW TEENS NORTH TO THE UPPER TEENS TO MID 20'S SOUTH. THESE READINGS WERE MOSTLY 2 TO 7 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL ACROSS ILLINOIS. HIGHEST READINGS WERE MOSTLY IN THE MID 60'S TO LOWER 70'S EARLY IN THE PERIOD, WHILE COLDEST READINGS WERE MOSTLY 4 TO 10 BELOW NORTH TO THE SINGLE DIGITS SOUTH.

TOTAL PRECIPITATION, WATER EQUIVALENT, FOR THE 15-DAY PERIOD AVERAGED FROM 0.50 TO AROUND 1.00 INCH IN THE CENTRAL AND NORTH TO AROUND 2.00 TO NEAR 11.00 INCHES IN THE SOUTH. THIS WAS MOSTLY 0.10 TO 0.30 INCH BELOW NORMAL OVER THE NORTHEAST AND EAST CENTRAL, 0.10 TO 0.40 INCH ABOVE NORMAL OVER THE WEST CENTRAL, AND 1.00 TO 9.00 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL OVER THE SOUTH.



PRECIPITATION (INCHES)
FEBRUARY 1-15, 1989



TEMPERATURE DEVIATION FROM
AVERAGE (°F) FEBRUARY 1-15, 1989

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CROP INFORMATION in this report is provided voluntarily by county officials of Extension Service and SCS, and agribusiness managers. Additional WEATHER INFORMATION is provided by the Illinois State Water Survey, IDE&NR, Champaign, Ill.; and National Weather Service Cooperative Observers, NOAA, Rosemont, Ill.